

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106123

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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FOR ECLA DELEGATION

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON FM
KINGSTON DTG O R 051948Z MAY 75

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, XX

SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT NEW ECONOMIC
ORDER

REF: KINGSTON 1695

DEPT PASS AS APPROPRIATE

1. COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED FIRST
WEEK'S SESSION WITH AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE
OF EXPERTS TO STUDY THE TERMS OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER,
PARTICULARLY IN TRADE AND FINANCE, AND TO SUBMIT ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMONWEALTH. THE CONSENSUS
WAS ANNOUNCED BY PM MANLEY, AND ALISTAIRE MCINTYRE
(CARICOM SECRETARY GENERAL) WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN
OF A WORKING GROUP TO RECOMMEND THE FRAME OF REFERENCE
AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE WHEN FORMAL SESSIONS
RESUME MAY 5.

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PAGE 02 STATE 106123

2. PM TRUDEAU (CANADA) OFFERED TO HOST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IN OTTAWA SO THAT AN INTERIM REPORT COULD BE READY FOR THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS IN GUYANA. BASED ON THIS REPORT THE FINANCE MINISTERS WILL MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEIR DELEGATIONS TO THE UN SESSION LATER THIS YEAR.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MAIN SPEAKERS ON THE SECOND AND LAST DAY OF THE ECONOMIC DISPUTE WERE PRESIDENT NYERERE (TANZANIA), PM MINTOFF (MALTA) AND PM GAIRY (GRENADA). NYERERE SUPPORTED THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN (BURNHAM PROPOSAL AND STATED THAT MORE ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MINTOFF DISCUSSED HIS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, SAID MALTA'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON THE SOLE FACT IT WAS A NAVAL BASE, AND EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE TO BE THE SITE FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN THE ISLAND'S ECONOMY. GAIRY CONFINED HIS REMARKS TO A STRONG CRITICISM OF THE UK FOR ITS FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HIS COUNTRY NEEDED SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE.

4. THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AS PROPOSED BY BURNHAM IS WIDELY PUBLICIZED HERE AS A "VICTORY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN". THE JAMAICA DAILY NEWS ALSO CARRIED A STORY THAT THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION SAID THAT REPORTS THEY HAD REJECTED THE BURNHAM PROPOSAL WERE ERRONEOUS. A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION SUPPOSEDLY COMMENTED "WE WANT COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION. WE ARE GLAD THIS MISUNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN CLEARED UP. THE POSITIONS OF MR. WILSON AND MR. BURNHAM HAVE NECESSARILY TO BE DIFFERENT. BUT THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE END OF THE SESSION WAS THAT WE HAVE ALL MADE A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD." ADOPTION OF THE BURNHAM PROPOSAL IS ALSO VIEWED AS A CONSENSUS TOWARD FASTER PROGRESS FOR SOLVING THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE LDCS AND DCs. OUTGOING SECRETARY GENERAL ARNOLD SMITH SAID THE COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS WOULD BE TO EXAMINE A "BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE TERMS OF TRADE TO SPEED UP THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, TO INCREASE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 106123

ABILITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THEREBY RAISE THEIR STANDARDS OF LIVING."

5. COMMENT: SINCE CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN KINGSTON AND PM MANLEY IS CHAIRMAN, LOCAL PRESS CAN BE EXPECTED TO HIGHLIGHT CARIBBEAN INPUTS AND PORTRAY THEM AS VICTORIES. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE TOLD ECONOFF DECISION TO APPOINT COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS "IS NOBODY'S

VICTORY AND NOT A REAL BLOW TO WILSON SINCE WILSON'S PROPOSALS WERE PRETTY STANDARD STUFF". HE DID SAY THERE HAD BEEN SOME VERY STRENUOUS DRAFTING DURING THE WEEKEND OVER THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. THERE WAS ALSO GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE A CANDADIAN. ONE OF THE NAMES MENTIONED IN THIS REGARD WAS JAKE WARREN, NEW CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED THAT DECISION TO APPOINT COMMITTEE PROBABLY MOST SENSIBLE THING CONFERENCE COULD HAVE AGREED ON. WITH REFERENCE TO BURNHAM'S RHETORIC, HE SAID MOST OF PACIFIC AND SOME OF AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS ARE QUITE CONSERVATIVE. CANADIAN DELEGATES HAD ALSO TOLD HIM THAT THE CONFERENCE SEEMS TO HAVE REVERTED TO ENDLESS SPEECH-MAKING, WHICH IS SOMETHING MOST MEMBERS HAD THOUGHT WAS ELIMINATED AT OTTAWA. IN ECONOFF VIEW, FACT THAT SO-CALLED REVOLUTIONARY THIRD WORLD LEADER LIKE BURNHAM SHOULD PROPOSE STUDY GROUP, WHICH IS STANDARD DC COPOUT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE SAID HE THOUGH BURNHAM SPEECH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BY A CANADIAN.

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